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Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Maldives, Morocco, Peru and Tajikistan: draft resolution

Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[3] the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[4] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[5] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[6] the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[7] the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[8] the outcome document

[1] Resolution 60/1.
[2] Resolution 55/2.
[3] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.
[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.
[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.
[6] Resolution 63/239, annex.
[7] Resolution 63/303, annex.
[8] Resolution 65/1.

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Please recycle

of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[9] the report of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[10] and the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway",[11]

Recalling further its resolutions 70/193 of 22 December 2015, entitled "International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017", 70/196 of 22 December 2015 on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America and 70/200 of 22 December 2015, entitled "Global Code of Ethics for Tourism",

Recalling its resolution 69/233 of 19 December 2014 on the promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Stressing that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing its economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels,

Stressing also that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, is a cross-cutting activity that can contribute to the fight against poverty, the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development, the improvement of quality of life and the economic empowerment of women and youth, and its contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, especially in developing countries,

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[9] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[10] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/35.

[11] Resolution 69/15, annex.

Stressing further that Sustainable Development Goals 8, 12 and 14 recognize the contribution of tourism in fostering economic growth, creating jobs, promoting local culture, accelerating the change to more sustainable consumption and production patterns and promoting the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources,

Stressing the role of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, in promoting rural development and better living conditions for sustainable rural populations,

Welcoming the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote ecotourism and sustainable tourism worldwide,

Welcoming also the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 and the launching of the sustainable tourism programme of the Framework, and encouraging its further implementation through capacity-building projects and initiatives to support sustainable tourism,

Noting the initiatives launched and the events organized at the subregional, regional and international levels in the field of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization transmitted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;[12]

2. *Recognizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, represents an important driver of sustainable economic growth and decent job creation, that it can have a positive impact on income generation and education, and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger, and that it can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Also recognizes* the potential of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, to reduce poverty by improving individual livelihoods in local communities and to generate resources for community development projects;

4. *Further recognizes* that the promotion of local tourism products can instil pride and self-identification with local values in sustainable development;

5. *Emphasizes* the need to optimize the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits stemming from sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, in all countries, particularly developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States;

6. *Also emphasizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, can contribute to sustainable development, in particular environment protection, and can improve the well-being of indigenous peoples and local communities;

[12] See A/71/173.

7. *Recognizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, creates significant opportunities for the conservation, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and of natural areas by encouraging indigenous peoples and local communities in host countries and tourists alike to preserve and respect the natural and cultural heritage;

8. *Underlines*, in this regard, the importance of establishing, at the national level, where necessary, appropriate policies, guidelines, institutions and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, for promoting and supporting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and minimizing any potential negative impact;

9. *Invites* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to encourage and support best practices in relation to the implementation of relevant policies, guidelines and regulations in sustainable tourism, including the ecotourism sector, and to implement and disseminate existing guidelines;

10. *Encourages* Governments at all levels to use sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a tool to support poverty eradication, social inclusion, environmental protection and/or conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity and to base tourism components on clear evidence of market demand and on a sound economic and environmental foundation;

11. *Encourages* Member States to promote investment in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, in accordance with their national development priorities and legislation, which may include creating small and medium-sized enterprises, promoting cooperatives and facilitating access to financing through inclusive financial services, including microcredit initiatives for the poor, for indigenous peoples and for local communities in areas, including rural areas, with high potential for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism;

12. *Encourages* the development of tourism infrastructure and the promotion of tourism diversification, including through public-private partnerships, in a way that fosters job creation for local communities, the preservation of their way of life, culture and heritage and the protection of the environment;

13. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations and the specialized agencies to support the coordination of regional and/or international sustainable tourism development frameworks, as appropriate, in order to assist countries in promoting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environmental protection;

14. *Underlines* the importance of conducting an environmental impact assessment, in accordance with national legislation, for the development of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism opportunities;

15. *Also underlines* the need to foster resilient tourism development to deal with shocks, including through improved integration of the tourism sector into the emergency sectors, private-public cooperation and the diversification of activities and products;

16. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, in all their aspects, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in policy development for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and underlines the importance of promoting the full and early participation and involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating their knowledge, heritage and values in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, as appropriate;

17. *Emphasizes* the need for effective measures, in the context of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, to ensure the full empowerment of women, including the equal participation of women and men at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas;

18. *Also emphasizes* the need for effective measures, in the context of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, to help to ensure the equal participation of youth, persons with disabilities and older persons at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas and to promote the effective economic empowerment, including through international cooperation, of women, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons, in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, mainly through decent job and income creation;

19. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as an instrument that can contribute to achieving those Goals, in particular the Goals of eradicating extreme poverty and of ensuring environmental sustainability, and to support the efforts and policies of developing countries in this field;

20. *Encourages* the regional and international financial institutions to provide adequate support to programmes and projects related to sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, taking into account the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of such activities;

21. *Invites* relevant specialized agencies, in particular the World Tourism Organization, United Nations bodies and other organizations, to provide technical assistance to Governments, upon request, and to assist, as appropriate, in strengthening legislative or policy frameworks for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, including those for environment protection and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage;

22. *Invites* relevant specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, other organizations and multilateral financial institutions to provide technical assistance to Governments, upon request and as appropriate, in identifying needs as well as opportunities to improve the contribution of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, to poverty eradication, including through securing wider community benefits from sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, as a viable and sustainable economic development option;

23. *Encourages* all stakeholders to cooperate in supporting, as appropriate, the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable tourism, including women and young people, with regard to their expertise, knowledge and values, and to promote their full and active participation in all tourism operations, including ecotourism activities;

24. *Encourages* the public and private sectors and relevant stakeholders to provide, upon request, assistance for capacity-building, the development of specific guidelines and awareness-raising materials and training for people involved in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, such as language training and training in specific skills in tourism services, as well as to develop or strengthen partnerships, especially in protected areas;

25. *Invites* relevant stakeholders to provide, upon request and as appropriate, technical assistance to assist in building the capacity, including for marketing and product positioning, of local communities, cooperatives and small and medium-sized businesses involved in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities;

26. *Recognizes* the role of North-South cooperation in promoting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a means to achieve economic growth, to reduce inequalities and to improve living standards in developing countries, and also recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation, as complements to North-South cooperation, have the potential to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism;

27. *Invites* Governments and other stakeholders to consider joining the framework of the Global Observatories of Sustainable Tourism of the World Tourism Organization as a way to promote socioeconomic and environmentally sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and to support better informed sustainable tourism policies around the world, mainly through the identification and dissemination of best practices and enhanced awareness of and capacity-building for sustainability among tourism stakeholders;

28. *Encourages* sustainable tourism observatories to advance the measurement of sustainable tourism development and to continue to explore the use of innovative technologies and methodologies, including geographic information systems and geo-referenced data and the capability of data generation and analysis of mobile phones, in order to help to measure the impacts on tourism;

29. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations and the tourism sector to improve efforts to measure the role and impact of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, through the use of innovative technologies in order to address the sociocultural and environmental dimensions of sustainable tourism, and stresses the need for the capacity-building of developing countries in this regard;

30. *Stresses* the importance of improved marketing and communications on sustainable practices in order to enhance the decision-making of consumers regarding their needs and in line with the objective of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable consumption and production patterns;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization and other relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including recommendations on ways and means to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a tool for fighting poverty and promoting sustainable development, taking into account relevant reports prepared by the World Tourism Organization in this field.